

Bluster, Not Bomb, That's What U. S. Expects From Reds

By Robert J. Donovan

WASHINGTON, Apr. 18.—President Kennedy warned Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev tonight that the United States would "immediately" honor its hemisphere treaty obligations to resist any Soviet military intervention in Cuba.

The President reiterated that the United States does not intend to intervene with armed forces in Cuba in support of the rebels battling to overthrow Fidel Castro.

However, he charged in so many words that the Russians are using the Cuban situation as a pretext "to inflame other areas of the world."

Note Given Envoy

The President's statements were contained in a note to Premier Khrushchev which Secretary of State Dean Rusk personally handed to Soviet Ambassador Mikhail A. Menshikov at the State Department at 7 p. m. It was in reply to Mr. Khrushchev's note to the President earlier today demanding that Mr. Kennedy halt the Cuban invasion.

Mr. Khrushchev at the same time promised "all necessary assistance" to the Castro regime.

Directing his reply to this threat, President Kennedy said:

"In the event of any military intervention by outside force, we will immediately honor our obligations under the inter-American system to protect this hemisphere against external aggression."

The President did not define what he would consider military intervention. But American officials made it clear that the presence of any Soviet troops or other members of the Soviet armed forces in Cuba would be intolerable to the United States.

Tension Builds Up

Nevertheless, the State Department spokesman said that Mr. Khrushchev's note was not a threat but a warning for propaganda purposes, and that the outlook here is that he will not intervene.

Khrushchev said the United States had armed and trained the Cuban rebels and could, if it chose, call off the fighting.

To this, the President replied:

"You are under a serious misapprehension in regard to events in Cuba. For months there has been evident and growing resistance to the Castro dictatorship. More than 100,000 refugees have recently fled from Cuba into neighboring countries."

He said that many of these people were bent on assisting their fellow Cubans, and that many of them had fought on Mr. Castro's side against the Batista dictatorship.

The President said that Cubans have found the denial of their liberties "intolerable" and that it was not surprising that they would now fight against Premier Castro.

While the President said the United States would not intervene against Mr. Castro, the American people, Mr. Kennedy added, "do not conceal their admiration for Cuban patriots who wish to see a democratic system in an independent Cuba."

"The United States government can take no action to violate the spirit of liberty," he said.

Not not Belligerent

The President's note, which was the first of its kind he has sent since taking office, was not belligerent, not even in his language warning that the United States would not tolerate intervention.

Mr. Kennedy urged Mr. Khrushchev to co-operate to improve the international atmosphere.

A prompt cease-fire and a peaceful settlement of the dan-

gerous situation in Laos, co-operation with the United Nations in the Congo and a speedy conclusion of an acceptable treaty for the banning of nuclear tests," Mr. Kennedy said, "would be constructive steps in this direction."

"The regime in Cuba could make a similar contribution by permitting the Cuban people freely to determine their own future by democratic processes and freely to co-operate with their Latin American neighbors."

The President reminded the Soviet leader that free people "do not accept the claim of historical inevitability for Communist revolution."

"What your government believes," he said, "is its own business. What it does in the world is the world's business."

"The great revolution in the history of man—past, present and future—is the revolution

of those determined to be free." The Kennedy reply presumably was drafted with the help of Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen W. Dulles and Charles E. Bohlen, the State Department's expert on Soviet affairs. Both officials visited the White House during the day.